

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1-20 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4, 7, 8 and 17 have been amended. Claim 1 has been amended to remove a typographical error. No new matter has been added with this amendment. Reconsideration of this Application and entry of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

#### **35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection**

Applicant has amended claim 8 by replacing “permanent portion” with “detachable portion.” Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 is respectfully requested.

#### **35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections**

The Examiner’s rejection of claims 1-9 and 13-20 as being anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in view of Buirge is respectfully traversed. Buirge does not disclose coating a preliminary stent and then removing a detachable portion with pooled coating from the coated permanent portion. Buirge rather discloses forming a three layer long tube using a dip process and then cutting the long tube into separate stent pumps, which are then dip coated to seal the intermediate layer (Buirge, col. 4, lines 32 – 52). Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 102(b) is respectfully requested.

#### **35 U.S.C. §103 Rejections**

The Examiner’s rejection of claims 10–12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) in view of Buirge is respectfully traversed. There is no teaching or suggestion within Buirge or any of the cited references alone or in combination to lead one of skill in the art to arrive at the invention as claimed. In fact, Buirge teaches away from the invention in teaching that the mandrel is removed from the individual coated and cured stent pump (Buirge col. 4, lines 43 – 57), without the need to remove a coated detachable portion with pooled coating of the stent from a coated permanent portion as required by the present claims. Buirge also teaches away in that it discloses that rigid layer 16 provides structural integrity and acts as a stent (Buirge, col. 3, lines 39-41). As such, the dipping process to form the long tube with layers 12, 14 and 16 and then subsequently cutting the long tube, is the process of forming individual stent pumps, not the process of coating an individual stent as required by the present invention. The coating of the individual stent pumps including layer 16, which has been identified as acting as a stent, occurs after the long tube has been cut. Accordingly, the Examiner’s comments on page 3 of the 3/22/06 Office Action, describing a long tube cut into three stents is explaining how a stent

pump may be formed, and provides no teaching or suggestion of the process of coating individual stents after they are formed, which is the subject of the present invention. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required under 37 C.F.R. 1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 01-2525. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at telephone (707) 543-5021.

Respectfully submitted,

/Alan M. Krubiner, Reg. No. 26,289/  
Alan M. Krubiner  
Registration No. 26,289  
Attorney for Applicant

Medtronic Vascular, Inc.  
3576 Unocal Place  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403  
Facsimile No.: (707) 543-5420